

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown in the Listing of Claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A masking member attached to a part of an article having at least one open hole penetrating said part from a first to a second side of the part, and the first side of said article is to be coated with spray paint, wherein:

said masking member is formed by vacuum and/or pressure forming a thermoplastic resin sheet or film and comprises:

(a) at least one fitting part that fits into said at least one open hole and has a first side and a second side,

(b) a collar at the first side of said fitting part, at least a part of said collar being at the first side of said part, outside of said at least one hole, and having a greater predetermined circumference greater than the hole at said first side of the part, and

(c) a hollow flange at the second side of said fitting part, at least a part of the flange being at the second side of said part, outside of said at least one hole, and also having a predetermined circumference greater than the hole at said second side of the part to cover the circumference of the second side end of the hole to protect against paint mist invading the hole from the second side end of the hole ~~said hollow flange being formed by expanding the second side end of the hole when said masking member is formed by the vacuum and/or pressure forming;~~

wherein said collar and said flange protect said at least one open hole from contamination by material used to apply surface treatment to said part; and

at least one of said collar and said flange is sufficiently elastic and resilient to deform for insertion of the masking member into said at least one open hole such that at least a part of each of the collar and the flange is outside of the hole and extends beyond the circumference of the hole.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A masking member as in claim 2 attached to a part having a single open hole, wherein said masking member has a single fitting part, single collar, and a single flange.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A masking member as in claim 2 in which said fitting member, collar and flange are generally circular.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A masking member as in claim 2 attached to a part having multiple open holes, wherein said masking member comprises multiple fitting parts fitting into respective ones of said open holes, and multiple flanges each having at least a portion that surrounds a respective one of said open holes at the second side of the part.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A masking member as in claim 5 in which said collar comprises a single body having at least a portion that surrounds all of said multiple holes at the first side of the part to protect them from contamination by material used to apply surface treatment to said part.

Claims 7 - 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A masking member as in claim ~~[[9]]~~ 2 in which said masking member is sufficiently elastic and resilient for insertion into and withdrawal from said at least one hole for multiple uses of said masking member and in which said at least one fitting part has a cross-section equal to or smaller than that of said at least one hole.